

Prevention & Education

Crime prevention education and information about the criminal justice process are important components of the Anoka County Attorney's Office.

We are available to provide community education and outreach in Anoka County on many topics, including:

- Crime Victim Rights
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation
- Identity Theft & Scams
- Online Safety
- Opioid Abuse & Other Drug Trends
- Specialty Courts

Request a Speaker

If you would like to request a presentation by the Anoka County Attorney's Office, call the Community Relations Coordinator at 763-324-5471 or email attorney@co.anoka.mn.us.

Contact Us

Anoka County Attorney's Office

763-324-5550

attorney@co.anoka.mn.us

anokacounty.us/attorney

Victim/Witness Services

763-324-5540

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

victimwitness@co.anoka.mn.us

anokacounty.us/victimwitness

Tell us how we're doing

anokacounty.us/vwfeedback



VICTIM/ WITNESS SERVICES UNIT

*A guide provided by the
Anoka County
Attorney's Office*



Mission

Victims and witnesses play a vital role in the criminal justice system. Their cooperation is essential in holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

The goal of the Anoka County Victim/Witness Services unit is to provide victims and witnesses supportive services and assistance to deal with the crime itself, and to understand their role in the criminal justice system.

Our mission is to protect the rights and interests of crime victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system, while encouraging participation in the court process and addressing individual needs brought on by victimization.



Services

What does a Victim/Witness Specialist do?

- Helps crime victims understand their rights and the criminal justice system
- Ensures victims' statutory rights are upheld
- Builds trust and rapport to support victims in strengthening their self-empowerment and decision-making
- Provides ongoing information about the status of a case
- Escorts victims to the courtroom and attends hearings with them
- Encourages victims to participate in the prosecution process
- Works with prosecuting attorneys to ensure victim input is considered in the criminal case
- Reads victim impact statements in court if requested by victims
- Liaison to other criminal justice agencies, such as law enforcement and corrections
- Prepares victims and witnesses for testimony
- Provides financial assistance, including restitution, reparations, emergency funds, and sexual assault victim funds
- Refers to appropriate services

Victim Rights & Needs

Victim Rights

Minnesota Statute 611A provides the following rights to victims of crime:

- The right to be notified
- The right to participate in prosecution
- The right to protection from harm
- The right to apply for financial assistance
- Additional rights afforded to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment

Restorative Justice

Victim-Offender Dialogue:

Trained mediators facilitate a discussion between the victim and the offender using processes of neutrality, confidentiality, and problem solving in a safe, controlled setting to attempt to repair the harm caused by the crime.

Group conferences:

Family members and members of a community meet to decide how an offender can be held accountable for his/her behavior, and take responsibility to repair harm.